

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07401 041009Z

17
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 OMB-01

SAM-01 SAJ-01 CPR-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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O R 040923Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0616
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUS JAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, PINT, JA
SUBJ: SATO FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

REF: TOKYO 7310

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: SATO FUNERAL COMMITTEE IS IN PROCESS OF FORMATION WITH EXPECTATION THAT OFFICIAL NOTICE OF FUNERAL DATE AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE FORTHCOMING BY EVENING OF JUNE 6. AT SAME TIME, PRESS NOW APPEARS TO TAKE FOR GRANTED JUNE 16 FUNERAL DATE AND OVERSEAS DELEGATIONS SEEM VERY LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. MEMBER OF PRIME MINISTER'S STAFF CHARGED WITH COORDINATION OF SATO FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 4 THAT FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE BY TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CABINET, LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND PEOPLE, REFLECTING THREEFOLD SPONSORSHIP OF FUNERAL ITSELF. REPRESENTATIVES
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OF THESE THREE ELEMENTS ARE MEETING INFORMALLY JUNE 4 TO ESTAB-

LISH FORMAL COMMITTEE WHICH WILL OFFICIALLY SET FUNERAL DATE AND SEE TO OTHER ARRANGEMENTS. STAFF MEMBER THOUGHT THESE DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKEN FORMALLY BY EVENING OF JUNE 6.

2. FOREIGN OFFICE IS TAKING VERY CAUTIOUS APPROACH IN DISCUSSING FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS, SAYING ONLY THAT "NATIONAL FUNERAL" WILL BE HELD. THIS MAY WELL REFLECT CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY OF THEIR PART AS TO WHAT IS INTENDED. PROTOCOL OFFICER HAS TOLD US ON CLOSE BASIS, HOWEVER, THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED JUNE 16 WOULD BE DATE AND THAT OVERSEAS DELEGATIONS WOULD ATTEND. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH THAT NEITHER JAPANESE TRADITION NOR ETIQUETTE WOULD RULE OUT CONVERSATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DURING FUNERAL PERIOD. IF YOSHIDA PRECEDENT HOLD, HOWEVER, COURTESY CALLS WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF BY MASS RECEPTION HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER.

3. MEDIA CONTINUE TO BE MOST DETAILED--IF NOT MOST AUTHORITATIVE--SOURCE OF INFORMATION. PRESS AND NHKMSOW REGARD JUNE 16 AS DEFINITE FUNERAL DATE; THEY ARE USING IT WITHOUT QUALIFICATION IN THEIR COLUMNS. THERE IS ALSO PASSING REFERENCE TO OVERSEAS DELEGATIONS, BUT SO FAR MOST COMMENTARY HAS CONCENTRATED ON WELL-KNOWN REHEARSALS OF SATO ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SPECULATION AS TO WHY "NATIONAL FUNERAL" RATHER THAN "STATE FUNERAL" WAS DECIDED. LATTER BOILS DOWN TO OPPOSITION PARTY THREAT TO FIGHT STATE FUNERAL IN DIET WITH POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACT ON MIKI LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM.
HODGSON

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